

Attention: City Beat reporters
Neighborhood & Community reporters
Real-estate & Home Improvement reporters

Mayor, MPS student rehabbers turn over keys to buyer of home that was headed for the wrecking ball. Mayor, City agencies give MPS students recognition for turning a neighborhood eyesore into a dream home for first time home owner.

Thursday May 30, 2002 2:00 PM

Through a partnership of the City-run Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp., (NIDC) and Milwaukee Public Schools' Life Long Learning program, a tax foreclosed home got a new lease on life. The partnership sponsors are holding a news conference and ceremony to show off the newly renovated home, which is one of several the City is working on. Students from the Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School who worked on the home are being invited to meet the new owner and see their completed work. Along with other officials, Mayor Norquist will turn over keys to the first time home owner and honor the students .

Who: Mayor John Norquist, Superintendent Spence Korte, Principal Robert Peters, Vice Principal John Rock, DNS Deputy Commissioner & NIDC President Schuyler Seager, NIDC Executive Director Yolanda J. Mack, Housing Preservation Manager Judy Allen and students from Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School.

When: Thursday afternoon, May 30, 2002 2:00 P.M.

Where: 3932 N. 30th St.

What: Key ceremony and project completion celebration.

Questions: Call Judy Allen, NIDC 286-8601 or Todd Weiler DNS, 286-3214 or 708-3360.



**Department of Neighborhood Services,
Neighborhood Improvement Development
Corporation and Milwaukee Public Schools
announce**

Learning for life program unveils student renovated home and new owner key ceremony

News conference: Thursday May 30, 2002 2:00 P.M.
3932 N. 30th St.

The Mayor, Department of Neighborhood Services' (DNS) Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC), with Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) announce the unveiling and new ownership of the Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School renovated home at 3932 N. 30th St. This completion is part of the MPS and NIDC "School to Work program".

CONTACTS:

Mayor's Office, Steve Filmanowicz, 286-8531
MPS, Don Hoffman, Public Affairs, 475-8237
Milwaukee Trade and Technology School,
Robert Peters, Principal, 212-2400
NIDC, Judy Allen, 286-8601
DNS Public Information, Todd Weiler 708-3360

City of Milwaukee officials presented the keys for a newly renovated home to its new owner today. Miss LaShawn Hodges was the qualifying buyer and this is her first home. Students who worked on the home will get to meet the new owner and receive plenty of thanks from City leaders as well.

The residence has been the site of a lot of activity over the past year as students from Milwaukee's Trade and Technical High School have been working to bring the older home back to life. The City's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation in cooperation with Milwaukee Public Schools worked to save the home from the wrecking ball and give the students some real-life work skills.

Mayor John O Norquist presented the keys for the home to Miss Hodges who's a first time home buyer. The Mayor praised the work of the students. MPS superintendent Spence Korte added his thanks to the students and the program that helps to renovate homes and teach youth valuable job skills.

Working through the Neighborhood Improvement Development corporation (NIDC) and MPS, 21 students from Milwaukee's Tech High School developed on the job skills of carpentry, plumbing and electrical work. All the work was monitored by class instructors and City inspectors signed off on the work.

The ten-year old "School to Work" program is actively involved in rehabbing City-owned vacant property. The program buys vacant and blighted property that typically might be tax foreclosed as well, thus solving two problems. The property is put back on the tax rolls and students gain priceless experience.

Once code compliant the homes are sold to eligible owners who are screened by NIDC. The new owners qualify by taking classes in home ownership, and other preparation for becoming a home owner.

NIDC provides the property, technical and financial resources for this initiative. They also provide technical assistance in the form of design input and construction oversight. A housing specialist coordinates the sub-contractor work if needed. As the owner, NIDC is responsible for the project costs including financing, utilities, taxes and materials.

MPS's participation involves providing construction labor through their carpentry, electrical and plumbing classes. On site the respective teachers provide supervision and training. This takes the student from the classroom into an actual construction environment. This learning process enhances the students' preparation for employment in the construction industry upon graduation. The schools further establish partnerships with businesses and trades persons, many of whom mentor the students.

The Urban Rehab Partners program also involves Custer and Bay View High Schools. A total of 13 properties are undergoing repair or have been brought to market to date.

For more information or questions about this topic, call:
DNS Public Information Coordinator, Todd N. Weiler, 286-3214 or 708-3360